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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

REPORT NO.

INFORMATION REPORT

CD NO.

25X1A

COUNTRY Poland

DATE DISTR. 20 November 1951

SUBJECT Uranium Mining in Kowatzka-Schmiedeberg
25X1A

NO. OF PAGES 2

PLACE
ACQUIREDNO. OF ENCLS. 1 (2 Pages)
(LISTED BELOW)DATE OF
INFO.SUPPLEMENT TO 25X1X
REPORT NO.

1. In 1945-1946 the Soviets found uranium ore in an iron mine in the vicinity of the Ober-Schmiedeberg (Kowary-O 51/G 67) railroad station. These findings were followed by a systematic investigation of the entire region in the Schmiedeberg-Arnsberg-Forstbauden Area. * The population of Schmiedeberg increased from 6,500 in October 1945 to 14,000 on 1 January 1950 due to the influx of Polish nationals who were employed in uranium ore mining. **
2. The entire management of the uranium mining was in Soviet hands and all the important positions were held by Russians. The administrative offices were located in the former district court building on Gartenstrasse in Schmiedeberg. According to employees of the uranium mining administration, there were 11,000 people on the payroll. Of these, about 2,000 to 3,000 worked in the four mines early in 1950. No Chinese have been employed in the Schmiedeberg area. The Schmiedeberg mining administration cooperated closely with an administrative office in Bad Landeck (Ladek-Zdroj-P 41/H 43). ***
3. The Ober-Schmiedeberg railroad station was closed to public traffic and was converted into a loading station for uranium ore. Shipping containers for the uranium ore were manufactured in a factory which produced tin-plated metalware. These containers were metal drums which were 50 cm high and about 25 cm in diameter. Before packing, the ore was crushed in the crushing plants at the mines. All shipments left by truck at night since the Ober-Schmiedeberg railroad station had not yet been completed. The former Schmidding Works, with its large underground installations, was taken over by the mining administration in January 1950. According to Polish workmen, test stations and laboratories had been set up in Dittersbach. In early 1950, production had started in only three mines, and work being done at that time in the fourth mine was mainly preliminary work. In January 1949, the civilian population of the Bornhoehe town sector and the localities of Hohenwiese, Arnsberg and Dittersbach were evacuated and workmen assigned to uranium ore mining were billeted in these areas. A new workers' settlement consisting of approximately 180 houses was built in the Bornhoehe town sector. About 80 houses had been completed by the fall of 1949. Another settlement was built north of the town. It was rumored that all the civilian population of Schmiedeberg was to be evacuated in January 1951. The entire mining area was guarded by a KBW unit under the command of a Polish captain.

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4. [REDACTED] met the following Russians in Schmiedeberg:

- a. Mikhael Kruchek, who allegedly had worked in a laboratory in the Schmiedeberg area since the summer of 1949. He had previously been employed in a laboratory for uranium research in Krummhobel.
- b. Yagovkin, who was assigned to the prospecting detail, came to Schmiedeberg in November 1949. He had been in a German prison camp during the war and spoke German fluently.
- c. Vera Yagovkina, wife of Yagovkin, who was also assigned to the prospecting detail.
- d. Korotnik, who also was assigned to the prospecting detail, came to Schmiedeberg in the fall of 1949.
- e. Korotnika, wife of Korotnik, who was employed in the administrative office.
- f. Pitrenk, and his wife, who came from Krummhobel in the summer of 1949, Mrs. Pitrenka spoke German. Source believed that both were employed in a laboratory.

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* [REDACTED] Comment: For location sketch of the uranium mines, see Annex.

** [REDACTED] Comment: This information refers to iron ore mines where uranium ore is produced. The best Polish iron ore is mined near Krazyatka/Schmiedeberg. It is magnetite with a ferrous content up to 52 percent. The present production of this ore is significant and was only about 30,000 tons annually in 1947. Red iron ore, instead of magnetite, is found in the volcanic region west of Schmiedeberg. The small veins of the red iron ore deposit are permeated with cobalt, nickel, silver, uranium and bismuth.

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[REDACTED] Comment: The administrative offices controlling uranium mining near Stronie Slaskie/Seitenberg were located in Bad Landeck.

1 Annex: Sketch of installations in the Schmiedeberg Area.

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